

926 Grant Ave
Rockford Ills
March 6th 91

Mr, dear Dr Watson:-

At length I have
made ready and will send by express
to-morrow a thin package of Willows
for Kew under an outside wrapper
addressed to yourself. A similar
package lies on my table intended
for the Gray herbarium but thus I
have decided at the last moment
to keep in hand and send when
I return the herbarium sheets.
I would like, if possible, to hear from
Kew first. I am becoming more
and more cautious in naming
Willows for the Gray herb. when
they are likely to remain long

after I have quite finished over
such things as ~~exponents~~ of my
judgment. I am soon expecting
to visit Cambridge within a
year or two when I shall hope
to be able to go over the entire
collection and correct any of the
mistakes of past years that may
turn up.

I began selecting Dr. Gray's
specimens of Willows more than thirty
years ago - with no thought - in the
beginning, that my ^{determinations} ~~name~~ were of
the least consequence - (and often ~~was~~
~~wasn't~~). I simply wished to get
Dr. Gray's endorsement of ~~them~~ these
old labels - often recording very crude
determinations are mixed up with
later and more conscientious work
and by a cold and hyper-critical
student might not be generously
separated as the work of a beginner.

The named specimens that go on
from me, here & hereafter to
the Gray Herb. shall be something
I will feel willing should take
their chances under the most
exacting criticism.

I thank you for your
kindness in taking charge of
the parcel for Kew.

Yours cordially
M. S. B. M.

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